

**Gastrointestinal parasites in camelids in the UK****Camelid keepers****Introduction**

We would like to invite you to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether to participate you need to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and please contact us if you would like further information or if there is anything that you do not understand.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

Gut parasites can cause serious disease in llamas and alpacas. However, there is very little information available about gut parasites infecting alpacas and llamas in the UK. The purpose of this study is to determine how common gut parasites infections are among llamas and alpacas in the UK and find out which parasite species are infecting llamas and alpacas. We will also investigate risk factors for gut parasite infection.

**Why have I been invited to take part in the study?**

You have been invited to take part in the study because you keep alpacas or llamas and are based in the UK.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, you do not have to participate. There will be no adverse consequences, if you decide not to participate or withdraw at a later stage. You can withdraw your participation at any time without giving a reason and without prejudice. If you withdraw from the study, the faecal samples and questionnaire responses you have provided will be destroyed. Results obtained up to withdrawal of consent may be used, if you are happy for this to be done. Otherwise you may request that the results are destroyed and that no further use is made of them.

**What will I have to do?**

If you agree to participate in this study, we will ask you to collect fresh alpaca or llama faecal samples and send them to us at the University of Surrey. We will provide you with gloves, containers for collection of the faecal samples and packages with postage prepaid for safe postage of the samples to the University of Surrey. You may find it easier to corral the alpacas or llamas on hard standing before collecting the samples. Alternatively, we may ask you to allow us to come and collect alpaca and llama faecal samples on your premises. We will also ask you to complete a questionnaire asking questions relating to the number of animals you keep, their ages, how you look after your animals and any measures you use to manage gut parasites in your animals.

**What will happen to the samples and data that I provide?**

Once we have received the samples, we will test them for parasite infection by doing faecal worm egg counts and larval culture. We will use the questionnaire responses to investigate risk factors for gut parasite infection in camelids. The faecal samples and data from the questionnaires will be stored for

future research studies if you give your consent for us to do this. Research data will be stored securely for at least 10 years in line with University of Surrey policies.

**What are the possible risks of taking part?**

The main risk of taking part is potential exposure to infectious diseases when collecting faecal samples. Appropriate protective equipment should be worn. We do not foresee any risks to your animals from taking part in this study.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We can send you the faecal egg count results for the samples you provide, if you wish. It is anticipated that this research will result in the better understanding of the burden of gut parasites in alpacas and llamas in the UK. It is anticipated that this research will lead to development of better guidance on control and treatment of gut parasites in alpacas and llamas.

**Will I be paid for my animal being in the study?**

There will not be any compensation for taking part in this study.

**Will I have to pay for anything?**

You will not have to pay for anything, we will provide you with prepaid packages for postage of samples and questionnaires.

**What happens when the research study stops?**

If you are happy to allow us, we would like to retain your contact details to contact you for potential further follow-on studies in the future.

The research findings may be presented at scientific conferences and may be published in an article in a scientific journal. Please contact the lead researcher if you would like a summary of results of the research study.

**What if there is a problem?**

Any complaint or concern about any aspect of the way you have been dealt with during the course of the study will be addressed; please contact Dr Martha Betson, Lecturer in Veterinary Parasitology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Surrey, Daphne Jackson Road, Guildford GU2 7AL; m.betson@surrey.ac.uk; 01483 689821.

**Who is handling my data?**

The University of Surrey, as the sponsor, will act as the 'Data Controller' for this study. We will process your personal data on behalf of the controller and are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. This information will include your name/contact details and farm name, which is regarded as 'personal data'. We will use this information as explained in the 'What is the purpose of the study' section above.

**What will happen to my data?**

As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure when we use identifiable personal information from people who have agreed to take part in research, this data is processed fairly and lawfully and is done so on the basis of public interest. This means that when you agree to take part in this research study, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study.

All project data related to the administration of the project, (e.g. consent form) will be held for at least 6 years and all research data for at least 10 years in accordance with University policy. Your personal data will be held and processed in the strictest confidence, and in accordance with current data protection regulations.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you decide to withdraw your data from the study, we may not be able to do so. We will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information [<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/information-management/data-protection> and/or by contacting [dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk)].

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

The research findings may be disseminated through scientific publications, conferences and public engagement events. They will also be shared with Westpoint Farm Vets who are assisting with advertising this study. When research findings are disseminated, they will not contain any personal or information or information which could identify you or your premises.

### **Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Yes. Your details will be held in complete confidence. Personal data will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018) so that unauthorised individuals will not have access to them. The faecal samples you provide, results of laboratory testing and questionnaire responses will be anonymised and your personal data will be stored separately from these anonymised data. You and your premises will not be identified in any reports or publications resulting from this research.

In order to check that this research is carried out in line with the law and good research practice, monitoring and auditing can be carried out by independent authorised individuals from the University of Surrey and regulatory authorities. Data collected during the study, may be looked at by authorised individuals, where it is relevant to your taking part in this research. All will have a duty of confidentiality to you as a participant and we will do our best to meet this duty.

### **Full contact details of the lead researchers**

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research is organised and funded by the University of Surrey.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this Information Sheet.**